

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, it is necessary and vital to the people of the State that Maine's fishing heritage be preserved; and

Whereas, this legislation will convene a task force to study policies concerning the fishing industry; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved: That the Task Force to Make Recommendations Regarding Loss of Commercial Fishing Waterfront Access and Other Economic Development Issues Affecting Commercial Fishing, referred to in this resolve as the "task force," is established; and be it further

Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved: That the task force consists of the following 10 members appointed jointly by the presiding officers of the Legislature:

1. Two members of the Legislature, one of whom serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources;

2. Four members representing the fishing industry;

3. Two members representing state agencies that regulate the fishing industry; and

4. Two members of the general public, one of whom represents municipal government; and be it further

Sec. 3. Chair. Resolved: That the task force shall elect a chair from among its members at the first task force meeting; and be it further

Sec. 4. Appointments; meetings. Resolved: That all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council must be notified by all appointing authorities once the selections have been made. When the appointment of all members has been completed, the chair of the Legislative Council or the chair's designee shall call and convene the first meeting of the task

force no later than 15 days after the final member is appointed;
and be it further

Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the task force shall review current policy regarding the State's fishing industry and make recommendations to preserve the fishing industry. Specifically, the task force shall address the following issues:

1. Waterfront access for commercial fisheries, including zoning restrictions, municipal comprehensive plans, current-use taxation, smart growth, set asides and right-to-fish issues; and

2. Economic development, including incentives and disincentives, taxation policies, promotion and marketing issues, financing and workforce development; and be it further

Sec. 6. Staffing. Resolved: That, upon approval of the Legislative Council, the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis shall provide staffing services to the task force, with secondary staffing provided by the Department of Marine Resources and the State Planning Office; and be it further

Sec. 7. Compensation. Resolved: That the members of the task force who are Legislators are entitled to the legislative per diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, and reimbursement for necessary expenses incurred for their attendance at authorized meetings of the task force. Other members of the task force who are not otherwise compensated by their employers or other entities that they represent are entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses incurred for their attendance at authorized meetings; and be it further

Sec. 8. Report. Resolved: That the task force shall submit its report, together with any recommended implementing legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources no later than January 2, 2002. The Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources may report out a bill during the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature concerning the findings and recommendations of the task force. If the task force requires an extension of time to complete its report, it may apply to the Legislative Council, which may grant the extension; and be it further

Sec. 9. Task force budget. Resolved: That the chair of the task force, with assistance from the task force staff, shall administer the task force's budget. Within 10 days after its first meeting, the task force shall present a work plan and proposed budget to the Legislative Council for its approval. The task force may not

incur expenses that would result in the task force's exceeding its approved budget.

Upon request from the task force, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council or the executive director's designee shall promptly provide the task force chair and staff with a status report on the task force's budget, expenditures incurred and paid and available funds.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

This resolve establishes the Task Force to Make Recommendations Regarding Loss of Commercial Fishing Waterfront Access and Other Economic Development Issues Affecting Commercial Fishing.